

*Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor*

Whereas, The nearly 2.7 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession; and,

Whereas, The depth and breadth of the registered nursing profession meets the different and emerging health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings; and,

Whereas, The American Nurses Association, as the voice for the registered nurses of this country, is working to chart a new course for a healthy nation that relies on increasing delivery of primary and preventative health care; and,

Whereas, A renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care will require the better utilization of all our nation's registered nursing resources; and,

Whereas, Professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of extended care residents; and,

Whereas, The demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of extended care services; and,

Whereas, More qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in this community; and,

Whereas, The cost-effective, safe and quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an even more important component of the U.S. health care delivery system in the future; and,

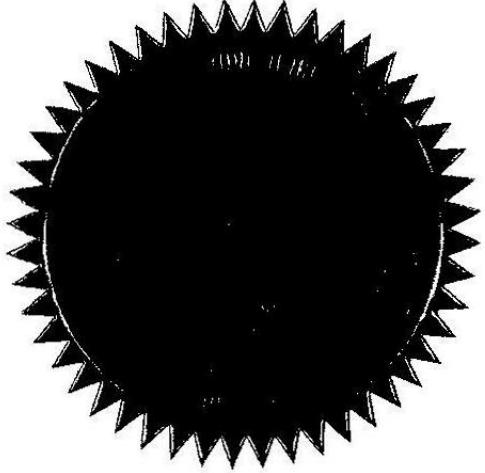
Whereas, The American Nurses Association and the South Dakota Health Care Association have declared the week of May 6-12, 2003, as National Nurses Week:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6-12, 2003, as

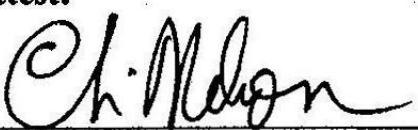
NURSES' WEEK

in South Dakota, and I call upon all citizens to join me in honoring and recognizing the registered nurses for their care of us this week and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.


M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State